IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE WESTERN DISTRICT OF NORTH CAROLINA CHARLOTTE DIVISION

CIVIL ACTION NO. 3:21-CV-00458-KDB-DSC

TREX PROPERTIES LLC,)	
)	
Plaintiff,)	
)	
v.)	<u>ORDER</u>
)	
25TH STREET HOLDING COMPANY)	
INC. et. al.,)	
)	
Defendants.)	

THIS MATTER is before the Court on "Plaintiff's Motion to Strike the <u>Pro Se</u> Answer of New England Auto Works, Inc." (document #1054).

Defendant filed a <u>pro se</u> Answer (document #1004).

Taking judicial notice of official documents attached to Plaintiff's Motion, it is clear that Defendant is a corporation.

"It has been the law for the better part of two centuries ... that a corporation may appear in federal courts only through licensed counsel." Rowland v. California Men's Colony, 506 U.S. 194, 201-02 (1993). Accord Gilley v. Shoffner, 345 F. Supp. 2d 563, 566 (M.D.N.C. 2004) (dismissing complaint of pro se corporate plaintiff); Microsoft Corp. v. Computer Serv. & Repair, Inc., 312 F. Supp. 2d 779, 780 (E.D.N.C. 2004) (same); Lexis-Nexis v. TraviShan Corp., 155 N.C. App. 205, 208, 573 S.E.2d 547, 549 (2002) (same).

Accordingly, "Plaintiff's Motion to Strike the <u>Pro Se</u> Answer of New England Auto Works, Inc." (document #1054) is granted.

The Court warns Defendant that it must immediately retain counsel. Defendant is granted a thirty-day extension of time to retain counsel who shall appear and file an answer on Defendant's behalf. Failure to retain counsel may result in entry of default and default judgment.

THEREFORE IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that:

- "Plaintiff's Motion to Strike the <u>Pro Se</u> Answer of New England Auto Works, Inc." (document #1054) is **GRANTED** and Defendant's <u>pro se</u> Answer (document #1004) is **STRICKEN**.
- 2. Defendant shall retain counsel who shall appear and file an answer within thirty days of this Order.
- 3. The Clerk is directed to send copies of this Order to <u>pro se</u> Defendant, to counsel for the parties and to the Honorable Kenneth D. Bell.

SO ORDERED.

Signed: February 15, 2022

David S. Cayer

United States Magistrate Judge